



of York County
A New Leash on Life

Brougher Companion Animal Shelter
3159 Susquehanna Trail North • York, PA 17406
(717) 764-6109
www.ycspca.org

March 7, 2013

Dear East Manchester Township Resident:

The York County SPCA (YCSPCA) regrets to inform you that East Manchester Township (Township) has decided not to honor the terms of our customary municipal contract that is critical in order for the YCSPCA to continue the animal care services that we have historically provided to Township residents. Despite the Township's representation to the YCSPCA in 2012 that the Township would indeed pay for the animal care services covered by the 2012 contract, we were recently informed that the East Manchester Township Board of Supervisors has no intention of paying the YCSPCA for past services already performed, nor does it intend to contract with the YCSPCA for essential animal care services in the future.

As many of you are aware, the YCSPCA has provided valued services to East Manchester Township and its residents for many years. Our contracts with nearly every municipality in York County, including East Manchester Township, provide for acceptance of incoming stray animals, rendering any necessary emergency veterinary care, provision of 24/7 coverage to serve the needs of local police departments pertaining to animal control, providing 24/7 availability for Animal Control Officers, and facilitation of quarantines/rabies testing for stray animal bites. YCSPCA received and cared for 87 animals from your Township in 2012. We incur costs of approximately \$250 per animal. As you can clearly see, our cost to provide these necessary and vital services totaled approximately \$22,000.

Our contracted rate with all area municipalities is based upon a per capita fee of 50 cents per resident. Based upon a 2010 census population of 7,264, the contract with East Manchester Township sets forth an annual fee of \$3,632. This fee is far below the YCSPCA's internal costs and significantly less than the amount charged by similar humane organizations such as the Chester County SPCA, which charges \$250 per animal. The newly formed Lancaster SPCA charges \$300 per dog. Although animal control is a local responsibility, East Manchester Township is the only major municipality in York County that has not honored our 2012 contract and the only township without a contract for animal care services. In lieu of accepting the standard \$0.50 per capita contract fee consistent with all other area municipalities for services that have already benefited the Township, services that the YCSPCA provided in good faith reliance on East Manchester Township's promise, the East Manchester Township Board of Supervisors has offered a one-time donation of \$1,500 with no promise or commitment to provide any further additional support. Although any and all donations are welcomed and appreciated, YCSPCA cannot, in good conscience, accept a donation that is intended to be consideration for services at a rate far below the standard rate shared by numerous other municipalities in our area. Doing so would not be fair to our other municipal partners, nor would it be prudent for the YCSPCA to provide services under these circumstances. Please understand that YCSPCA carefully establishes and designs these fees to properly balance the needs of our community constituents while ensuring that our organization remains financially sound.

In light of the East Manchester Township Board of Supervisors' decision in this matter, we have no choice but to cease receipt of stray animals from your Township. We regret the hardship it may impose on you and your fellow residents. Please know that this difficult situation causes a hardship for us as well, as the decision of the East Manchester Township Board puts us in the awkward and truly regrettable position of having to turn you and other residents away when you arrive at our doors with stray animals. Effective immediately, you should contact the East Manchester Township municipal office regarding any strays or animal care issues. The office address and telephone are 5080 N. Sherman St. Ext, Mount Wolf, PA 17347, and 266-4279, respectively. Their current office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. We have informed the Board of Supervisors of its need to have an appropriate plan, which includes having someone available after hours and on weekends/holidays to handle the acceptance of incoming strays and any animal care matters that may arise.

Please contact the East Manchester Township Board of Supervisors with any questions or concerns. We feel it is our moral responsibility to inform you directly about this issue, and we stand ready to provide the same consistent high quality services you have come to expect from us should your Township reconsider.

Sincerely,

Kathy Parks King
President
YCSPCA Board of Directors

Kevin J. Smith
First Vice President
YCSPCA Board of Directors

Melissa Smith
Executive Director
York County SPCA

c: Hon. Keith Gillespie
Hon. Mike Waugh